REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claim 10 was amended to more properly recite a computer program product.

Claims 1,3,6,7 and 8 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112. In response, amendments have been made to these claims to clarify the terminology.

Claims 1, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Myers (US Patent No. 5,921,780) in view of Serizawa (EP Patent No. 0872266 A1). Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Myers in view of Serizawa and further in view of Copperman (US Patent No. 5,474,453). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Myers in view of Serizawa and further in view of Copperman and further in view of Yoshida (EP Patent No. 1029569 A2).

In various embodiments of the present invention, an estimated passage number is described that estimates a number of times a moving object (e.g. a car) has passed at the stored position of the moving object. In various embodiments, the estimated passage number is based upon the stored passage number. Further, the influence on the moving object is calculated based upon the estimated passage number. Various embodiments are described specifically in the specification page 16, line 19 to page 17, line 27 and Fig. 7.

Various embodiments are not necessarily configured to record a passage number for any place in the road, but instead configured to record the passage number in association for regions of the line segments each. Thanks to such configurations, the amount of information to record is reduced.

In addition, various embodiments describe a method for estimating a passage number for regions in which any passage number is yet to be recorded.

Claim 1, as amended recites:

a calculation unit which estimates a passage number representing a number of times the moving object passed at the stored position of the moving object from the stored passage numbers, and calculates an influence on the moving object based on the received

operational input from the player, the stored position of the moving object, and the estimated passage number.

Claim 1 is asserted to be allowable, because none of the cited references discloses this limitation.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8, dependent upon claim 1 are also asserted to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as the independent claim, and more specifically, for the limitations they recite.

Claims 9-11are asserted to be allowable for substantially the same reasons as the independent claim 1. Dependent claims to claims 9-11 may be added upon notice of allowance of claim 1. They are held in abeyance at this time for compactness in prosecution.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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